

Message Text

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11

ACTION ITFE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6613

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 9858

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES: REFUGEES RESIDENT IN HONG KONG

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT (HKG) THE PROBLEM OF THE MOVEMENT TO CONUS OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARE NOT IN THE CAMPS BUT ARE RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG, SOME OF WHO HAVE ENTERED ILLEGALLY. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH WE FEEL A PRIMARY OBLIGATION TO REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS WHO ARE TEMPORARY WARDS OF THE HKG, WE ALSO HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO ALL REFUGEES WHO QUALIFY FOR ENTRY TO THE US UNDER OUR CRITERIA. HKG AGREED TO PERMIT DEPARTURE OF QUALIFIED REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE CAMPS WITH A MINIMUM OF PROCEDURE ON THE PART OF HK IMMIGRATION DEPT. PROVIDING THESE REFUGEES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NUMERICAL LIMITATION (CURRENTLY 1300) PLACED UPON HK BY IATF. WE AGREED TO SEEK SUCH AN ASSURANCE FROM ITAF.

2. WE ARE CURRENTLY PROCESSING A GROUP OF 15 ELIGIBLE OUT-OF-CAMP REFUGEES AND EXPECT THAT, AT THE MOST, WE WILL HAVE SOME FIFTY OF THESE. WITHIN THE FIFTY, SEVEN ARE ILLEGAL ENTRANTS TO HONG KONG, AND WITHIN THE FIFTY, WE EXPECT NO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE ILLEGALS. WHAT WE NEED IS AN ASSURANCE THAT THE QUOTA FOR ELIGIBLES FROM HONG KONG WILL BE EXPANDED TO COVER ALL THE ELIGIBLES UNDER EXISTING CRITERIA, INCLUDING THE SMALL INCREMENT OF THOSE OUTSIDE THE CAMPS. WE HEREBY REQUEST THAT ASSURANCE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THESE REFUGEES WILL

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NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 50.

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